Farmer-to-Farmer Program

CRS Ethiopia – *Nutrition Country Project*

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Project Title:	Ethiopia Nutrition Project
Duration:	October 2023 – September 2028
Location:	Oromia, Amhara, Sidama, SNNPR and Addis Ababa
Target hosts/beneficiaries:	Private Sector, Farmer Cooperative Unions, NGOs, Agricultural Research Institutes and Universities working on/supporting agribusiness development
Key Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture
	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
	USAID Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture Activity
	Ministry of Health

Acronyms

ACC	Agricultural Commercialization Cluster
ATI	Agricultural Transformation Agency
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FTF	Feed the Future
F2F	Farmer-to-Farmer
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
LOP	Life of Project
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
RFSA	Resilient Food Security Activity
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
SOW	Scope of Works
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

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Ethiopia Country F2F Project Description
Nutrition

1. Objective

To improve the food and nutrition security of target beneficiaries through volunteer technical assistance to host partners by addressing technical issues related to nutrition-sensitive agriculture, crop and livestock production diversification, nutrition awareness, food processing techniques, recipe preparation, and organizational constraints.

2. Description of Sub-Sector Targeted and Rationale for Targeting

2.1. Description

The availability of, and access to diverse and nutritious foods is crucial to build a productive workforce, improve health, and foster sustainable economic and social development within a nation. This requires a better understanding of nutrient rich foods, improved food processing and utilization and food safety. Ethiopia has been making considerable efforts to ensure food and nutrition security, mainly through increased production and diversification focusing on nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA). However, food and nutrition insecurity remain a major issue in the country due to the high population growth rate, and natural and anthropogenic disasters.[1] Approximately half of the households in the country obtain their caloric requirements from starch staples, predominantly derived from cereals such as maize, wheat, teff and sorghum, which often results in malnutrition deficiencies in protein-energy, minerals and vitamins.[2] Poor food safety and quality, poor post-harvest management and weak health services are also contributing to malnutrition problems in the country.

Although malnutrition in general has been improving over the last few decades, it remains prevalent and highest in African countries[3]. The government of Ethiopia has been implementing a new food and nutrition security policy since 2018[4]. The policy focuses on increasing food production and diversification, the consumption of safe and nutritious foods, reducing post-harvest losses, and nutrition training. The USAID Feed the Future (FTF) global food security strategy country plan also includes nutrition as a major component, emphasizing the production and consumption of nutritious and safe diets, nutrition and health services, as well as hygiene and sanitation[5]. The USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Ethiopia also promotes household food security through a nutritional lens and supports nutrition services.[6]

The CRS Ethiopia Nutrition Country F2F Project is designed to address the nutrition issues in alignment with the Ethiopian government's policy and USAID strategies. It will work across various sectors in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, other USAID-funded initiatives, and integrate with CRS programs to create synergies and efficiencies.

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[1] Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Food and Nutrition Security (2018)
[2] WFP and CSA, Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis Ethiopia (2019)
3 Africa Union, Africa Regional Nutrition Security (2015 – 2025)
[4] https://www.nipn.ephi.gov.et/sites/default/files/2020-05/Food%20and%20Nutrition%20Policy.pdf
[5] Feed the Future, Global Food Security Strategy Ethiopia Country Plan (2019 – 2023)
[6] https://www.usaid.gov/ethiopia/country-development-cooperation-strategy

2.2. Rationale for Targeting

The problem of malnutrition in Ethiopia is complex and the underlying causes are interrelated. The major causes include inadequate household food security, limited health services, and poor food safety and sanitation[7]. There are limited dietary practices and skills in crucial areas such as food processing, recipe preparation and food handling. The problem is further complicated by a lack of understanding of food groups and nutrient values, dietary diversity, and nutrition optimization. Some cultural beliefs regarding food taboos, traditional cooking, and feeding practices tend to discourage women and children from consuming nutritious foods. Examples include the exclusion of certain foods from restaurant menus for cultural and religious reasons, and the prohibition of certain food types such as milk, eggs, and rice during pregnancy driven by concerns about potential obstetric complications. There are 185 fasting days per year within the Orthodox religion. During those days many women and children refrain from eating meat, even in cases when this is not required by the church authorities. This has consequences for their nutritional intake. The country is highly affected by the triple burden of malnutrition which encompasses stunting, underweight, and wasting; alongside the prevalence of over nutrition, prevalent in urban areas. The country's nutrition profile indicates that 20% of children under 5 years are chronically malnourished. The prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting in children under 5 years is estimated at 36.8%, 21% and 6.8%, respectively.[8] Compared to men, women are found to be most affected by nutrient deficiencies and nutritional diseases. About a fourth of pregnant women (26%) suffer from anemia, and more than a third (36%) of the female population is iodine deficient.[9]

Current food consumption trends in Ethiopia exhibit a prioritization of calorie intake over dietary diversification. Therefore, it is important to promote dietary diversity, emphasizing the consumption of different nutrient-rich sources, to prevent nutritional diseases. National nutrition surveys in Ethiopia have indicated deficiencies of vitamin A, zinc, iodine, calcium, vitamin B12, folate and protein-energy malnutrition as public-health problems among all population groups, but severe in women of reproductive age and children under 5 years[10.] The problem is linked to the excessive consumption of cereals, which have low micronutrient content and lack vitamins. Meanwhile, the consumption of other important food groups such as animal-sourced products, pulses, fruits, and vegetables, is limited. Fruit and vegetable consumption in Ethiopia is very low, with 85% of the population having zero servings; less than 2% of the population having 3–4 servings, and only 1.5% meeting the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of five servings per day[11]. In general, addressing the multiple issues associated with nutrition requires a multisectoral approach. This approach aims to increase both the production and consumption of nutritious and safe foods, and harness cross-disciplinary expertise to develop healthy consumption patterns in society.

3. Key Problems/Constraints or Opportunities

[7] IFPRI, An assessment of the causes of malnutrition in Ethiopia (2005)
[8] Global Nutrition Report (2021)
[9] Teshome G., *et al.*, Prevalence and predictors of anemia among pregnant women in Ethiopia (2022)
[10] EPHI, Ethiopian National Micronutrient Survey (2016)
[11] IFPRI, Affordability of fruits and vegetables in Ethiopia (2018)

Low production and access to nutritious food - In the consultation workshop hosted by CRS F2F in November 2023, it was identified that the production of nutrient-dense crops and animal foods faces several constrains. These challenges include a lack of improved and high-yielding genotypes, poor soil fertility, and poor management practices[12]. Additionally, productivity is hampered by pests and diseases, drought, and insufficient inputs, all of which make it difficult for the households to build adequate food reserves. Low household income presents another issue impacting access to nutritious food. Subsistence farmers often sell quality foods (such as vegetables, fruits, milk, and eggs) for income generation rather than consuming them at home[13]. Others lack the financial capacity to buy and consume nutritious food items. Moreover, there are limitations in value chain development, processing, value addition and marketing of nutritious food products. Power dynamics within households can also affect members' access to nutritious food, especially women and children. As a result, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under 5 are more vulnerable to malnutrition and nutritional diseases.

Opportunity: Ethiopia's diverse climate and geographic features allow year-round production of a variety of crops and animal types. Both the Ethiopian government and USAID have included food and nutrition security in their strategic priorities and policies and are implementing a variety of projects to support these priorities. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO's) in the country are also actively focusing on nutrition. Further opportunities exist through engagement with private companies whose activities include food processing and fortification. Given this landscape, there are significant opportunities for CRS to address nutrition enhancement along value chains through collaboration with key stakeholders. To achieve this, CRS will focus on promoting NSA practices, advancing nutritious food processing and product development, and effective marketing strategies.

Limited knowledge of nutrition and skills for food processing - A significant portion of the population in Ethiopia possesses limited knowledge of the concepts and practices that support nutrition. Similarly, the understanding of how nutrition levels impact both health and labor productivity is not widespread. Crop and livestock food types are not properly characterized and classified for their nutrition values. Consequently, production by smallholder farmers mostly focuses on food security and income generation with limited awareness of production techniques and dietary diversity for nutrition security. Furthermore, cultural and religious norms also affect the production and consumption of certain types of food in some segments of society. For instance, the production and consumption of pigs is not allowed in Christian and Muslim society. Christians are also prohibited from consuming animal products such as meat, milk, and eggs during fasting periods[14]. Furthermore, while some households have traditional means of food processing, in general there are gaps in knowledge and research regarding post-harvest and small-scale food processing which affect nutrition outcomes for households and the food processing practices of small and medium sized enterprise (SME)[15]. Consequently, the nutritional values of some products, such as vegetables, are rarely maintained during food

[12] The workshop participants were from the MOA, national agricultural research entities, private companies, NGOs and farmers' cooperative unions
[13] WFP and MoH, Fill the Nutrient Gap Ethiopia (2021)
[14] Abegaz, *et.al*., Consumption of animal-source foods in Ethiopia: Patterns, changes, and determinants (2018)
[15] Ministry of Health, Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (2022) p.94

processing. Standard food processing practices to avoid anti-nutritional factors which affect the bioavailability of nutrients (e.g., phytate in beans) and toxic elements (e.g., cyanide in cassava and sorghum) are often ignored.[16] The lack of awareness regarding food safety and sanitation, including personal storage hygiene, represent additional factors that contribute to the nutritional insecurity in the country.

Opportunities: There are several opportunities to address the above issues. One approach is the application of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) model, a tool used by several stakeholders to determine existing nutrition status and identify interventions[17]. Another approach involves government strategic initiatives such as the Sekota Declaration[18] and *Yelemat Tirufat.*[19] These commitments to achieve food and nutrition security through domestic production and consumption of diverse foods present opportunities for collaboration with F2F. Finally, F2F aims to align with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, and support initiatives such as the USAID-funded Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) and Transforming Agriculture Activity to address nutrition challenges by improving the knowledge and skills of F2F's project participants in nutritious food production, processing and marketing. F2F will provide cooking demonstrations and training on household-level food processing by supporting host organizations such as NGOs engaged in these activities.

Shortage of post-harvest management and food processing technologies - Enhancing food production, reducing food losses, and improving food processing in Ethiopia requires the introduction of new techniques and technologies. Seasonal variations in production and markets impact the availability and accessibility of quality foods throughout the year. The lack of post-harvest management technologies (such as storage, cleaning, packaging, pest management, hygiene and sanitation), and food processing and preservation technologies are major factors affecting the quality and availability of nutritious foods. Locally tailored small-scale technologies are needed to enhance food processing and preservation at both household and community levels. Furthermore, existing food industries exhibit limited capacity and weak linkages with producers. In general, concerted efforts are required to develop improved post-harvest management, food processing and preservation systems to reduce current food losses and ensure continuous access to a diverse range of nutritious foods.

Opportunities: Currently, the government of Ethiopia is focusing on reducing post-harvest losses through the implementation of the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency's 10 Year Strategic Plan[20]. The private company, Shayashone PLC[21], is manufacturing Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags and other technologies designed for effective post-harvest management. Nowadays, the government is also integrating agro-processing into the development of industrial zones, which includes food processing and value additions. In alignment with these initiatives, CRS will support the system by facilitating technology and skill transfer, and promoting local processing and marketing of nutritious foods, especially by women.

[16] Ministry of Health, Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (2022)
[17] MOH, Food-based Dietary Guidelines (2022)
[18] https://www.cultivaid.org/seqota-declaration-2/
[19] https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/130035/TPGS_YelematTerufatReport.pdf
[20] https://www.ata.gov.et/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Summary-of-ATAs-10-Year-Strategy.pdf
[21] https://shayashone.com/

Low capacity of organizations working in the sub-sector - The consultation workshop identified that most organizations involved in nutrition are limited by a shortage of manpower, limited technical skills, insufficient financial resources, and inadequate facilities to provide regular support on nutrition. Following the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in 2021 and Ethiopia's commitment on food system transformation, the government recently established a new structure for food and nutrition within agricultural offices, from the Federal to Woreda levels, which requires capacity-building support. Community health extension workers are currently providing advice and training on nutrition and health. Strengthening linkages and collaboration between these extension workers and the agriculture sector is essential.

Opportunities: Given the increasing prioritization of nutrition and the government's commitment to implementing food system transformation, there is a heightened interest among F2F hosts and partners in acquiring new technologies and skills on nutrition. Other organizations such as World Vision, SNV, GIZ, Save the Children, Food for Hunger, and Goal Ethiopia are also implementing projects on food and nutrition. This creates opportunities for CRS to provide volunteer technical assistance to host partners including private and public sector entities. CRS will leverage these opportunities to support private farms in engaging in nutritious food production, processing, and marketing.

4. Proposed F2F Activities

To address the nutrition issues listed above, CRS will implement 25 volunteer assignments with 6 host organizations from among the private sector, NGOs, and public institutions. Scheduling of assignments will be demand-driven and opportunities for scaling up volunteer innovations will depend on gaps identified by hosts, implementing partners and the initial sector-wide assessments completed by F2F staff.

Fiscal Year	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	Total
Assignments	3	6	6	6	4	25

In their assignments, F2F volunteers will deliver highly specialized short-term technical assistance addressing technical gaps at multiple points along the value chain. The support will address the underlying causes of malnutrition focusing on NSA, food safety and sanitation, food processing, value addition and marketing. At the farm level, technical support will focus on the production of nutrient-dense crop and animal foods, climate-resilient and sustainable management practices for crop and livestock production, and improved post-harvest management practices. Volunteers will support hosts and beneficiaries in food processing including fortification, development of complementary feeding recipes, enhanced cooking practices, product development, and effective marketing strategies. Volunteers will also provide nutrition training to host partners and local beneficiaries to enhance their knowledge and awareness of nutrition and conduct participatory food processing and recipe demonstrations.

In addition to addressing technical gaps, the support will also aim to enhance the trainees' understanding of the nutritional values of different crop and animal foods, diet diversity, and the role of nutrition in improving human health and labor productivity. Assignments will promote improved food safety and hygiene practices to prevent contamination, toxification, and food and nutrition losses. They will target diverse community groups and community members with a special focus on training the most vulnerable members, including women, especially those who are pregnant and breastfeeding and have children under 5. Volunteers will also support the

development and marketing of nutritious food products. Volunteer assignments on nutrition training (including cooking demonstrations) and food processing will include both women and men, as well as community elders and religious leaders in efforts to bridge existing socio-cultural and religious barriers.

5. Key country partners and their roles

The following are key partners that will be involved in host identification, needs assessment, planning processes and in-country volunteer support during implementation of assignments.

Organization	Type of Collaboration	Description and Rationale for Collaboration
Ministry of Agriculture (Crops and Livestock Executives, and local offices of agriculture)	Sector needs, host identification, and relationship management with hosts	Responsible for policy formulation, regulation and quality control, and development of the agriculture sector (formulation, implementation and monitoring of agricultural legislation, regulations and policies). Coordinates, oversees and provides support to regional, zonal and woreda agriculture offices.
Ministry of Health	Host needs identification and collaboration in implementation	Supports identification of major malnutrition issues and nutrition needs of local beneficiaries. Field-based health extension workers help facilitate nutrition trainings and raise awareness.
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research,	Sector needs, and host identification, and technology transfer	Transfer of new technologies and tools, and provision of technical support and advice to host partners.
Federal Cooperative Agency	Sector needs, host identification, and relationship management with hosts	Policy formulation, regulation and linkages with cooperative unions.
Agricultural Transformation Institute	Sector needs and host identification	Identification and implementation of agricultural transformation agenda, development of policies and strategies with MOA. Facilitation of linkage with host partners.
Universities	Sector needs, host identification, technology transfer	Transfer of new technologies and tools, and provision of technical support and advice to host partners.
USAID-funded CRS RFSA program	Host needs identification, collaboration in implementation	Collaboration to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and conduct nutrition training and food processing demonstrations.
Feed the Future Ethiopia Community Nutrition activity	Host needs identification and linkages	Focuses on strengthening the nutritional status of women and young children through improved nutritional practices and community nutrition services, and better coordination among nutrition stakeholders across sectors.

Organization	Type of Collaboration	Description and Rationale for Collaboration
Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture Activity	Host needs identification and linkages	Supports farmers in sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, and linkages with hosts.
Local offices of women affairs	Facilitation of women's participation; information about gender dynamics; identification of women-based and women-led organizations to support.	Supports and facilitates identification and participation of women beneficiaries.

6. Target Hosts

CRS will collaborate with key partners to identify and select hosts based on their roles and contributions to the Nutrition sub-sector. The selection criteria for host organizations for the Nutrition Country F2F Project include considerations such as current production size (if processor), current experiences in food and nutrition, commitment to scale up best nutrition practices, and organizational capabilities. In total, 6 hosts will be selected for the Nutrition Country F2F Project. The hosts will be private companies, public institutions, or local NGOs. Public institutions selected may include national universities and agricultural research institutes, chosen based on their experience in providing technical and technological support on nutrition to local beneficiaries. Furthermore, all selected hosts must meet additional important requirements including but not limited to the following:

- Legally registered and recognized by the local government.
- Clear organizational structure and function.
- At least 40 members, owners, clients, suppliers, or students.
- Interest and willingness to receive volunteer technical support and apply recommendations.
- Ability and commitment to disseminate best practices and lessons learned to other participants.
- Willingness to provide required MEAL data.
- Willingness to contribute resources required for implementation of volunteer assignments.
- Committed to comply with CRS safeguarding and protection, and gender policies.
- Location in the FTF zone of influence and suitability for cluster formation.
- Commitment to participate in CRS F2F's Learning Agenda around gender-responsive programming.

The following is a list of potential hosts:

No	Host Name	Description
1	Salale University	Salale is a public university established in 2017 providing education, research and community services. The college of agriculture and natural resources is mandated by the government to conduct research and provide extension services on dairy production in the central Ethiopia.

No	Host Name	Description
2	Project Mercy	Project Mercy is a civic society organization established in 1977 and implementing development projects on agriculture, food and nutrition, health and education. It also implements natural resource conservation and agroforestry. It promotes production and marketing of fruit trees and coffee.
3	Meki Catholic Secretariat (MCS)	MCS is a CRS partner implementing different USAID-funded and other projects on livelihood development, agriculture, emergency response, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene.
4	Robe Catholic Secretariat (RCS)	RCS is a CRS partner implementing different CRS and other projects on livelihood development, agriculture (vegetable, coffee, poultry, beekeeping), emergency response, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene.
5	Hilina Enriched Foods PLC	Hilina is a private company which processes and markets nutritious foods. It works in collaboration with UNICEF to address nutrition issues facing women (pregnant and breastfeeding) and children under 5.
6	FAFFA Food hare Company	FAFFA is a private company established in 1962 which manufactures a variety of nutritious foods and works in collaboration with other organizations to address the nutrition challenges in the country. FAFFA processes quality protein maize, soymilk, oats, and fortified foods.
7	YBM Avocado Oil PLC	YBM is a private company processing avocado oil and by-products for soil amendment. It works in collaboration with private farmers and cooperatives growing avocado trees.

7. Key Feasibility Issues

7.1. Economic, Policy, Financial, Institutional and Socio-Cultural

The consultation workshop reviewed and identified key factors influencing the implementation of nutrition projects in Ethiopia. The main issues are listed below.

***Economic*:** CRS will complete 25 volunteer assignments under the nutrition country project. The costs and benefits of the volunteer technical assistance are analyzed based on previous experience. One volunteer assignment is estimated to cost $12,267, bringing the total cost for the 25 assignments to $306,675. After receiving F2F support, hosts are expected to generate gross and net incomes of $2,662,500 and $ 562,500, respectively, over the course of the project (LOP). By the end of the project, gross sales and net income are expected to increase by 30% and 25%, respectively. Furthermore, it is expected that hosts will contribute $12,920 and volunteers will leverage $1,400 in resources. Through the capacity-building support provided by volunteers, hosts are projected to raise $91,760 in grants over the course of the project, facilitated by business plan development. Hence, volunteer technical support will result in significantly greater benefits in terms of income and resources mobilized compared to the costs incurred in implementing the assignments.

Policy: The Ethiopian government is currently implementing its National Food and Nutrition Policy through different projects and strategic actions including the National Nutrition Program,

the Seqota Declaration, Lemet Tirufat, and the Food System and Resilience and Multi-sectoral National Nutrition Programs. The current UNFSS commitment promotes coordinated and comprehensive approaches to food and nutrition security in the country. Recently, national guidelines and training manuals have been developed in efforts to curb micronutrient deficiencies and acute malnutrition. The guidelines and manuals are disseminated among key actors including MOA, MOH, EIAR, the Ministry of Education, World Food Programme and the International Livestock Research Institute to support implementation of nutrition activities. However, effective implementation of the outlined strategies and guidelines requires stronger multisectoral coordination and leadership skills.

Financial: Increases in project funding from donors such as USAID and UNDP, and government efforts to allocate resources for nutrition activities are some of the positive factors in terms of access to finance. Nonetheless, low budget allocations and investments for nutrition interventions at zonal and woreda levels, as well as a lack of financial tracking and budget analysis for nutrition, poses a significant obstacle in expanding nutrition activities across the country.

Institutional: Nutrition is being integrated as a cross-cutting issue in governmental and non-governmental organizations. Some public universities such as Hawassa, Jimma and Gondar offer nutrition programs (courses) to students, demonstrating efforts to broaden the scope and coverage of nutrition activities. However, weak coordination between the institutions and development organizations in implementation of nutrition activities remain a significant challenge. Public and civil society organizations, in particular, lack institutional capacity such as trained manpower, technologies, finance and facilities to implement nutrition activities.

Socio-cultural: Various projects and awareness raising campaigns are being implemented in Ethiopia through various channels, including printed and mass media, religious congregations, and community meetings. However, their impact is constrained by social and cultural barriers which limit the participation and benefits gained by the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children. Women are often engaged in domestic work and their decision-making related to nutritious food production and consumption is very low. The Ethiopia national gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods shows that women own only 20% of land titles, 51% of women farmers have access to extension services, and 15% of women have access to credit, all of which are low compared to men's entitlement[22]. In some cases, cultural norms forbid women from consuming certain types of food such as eggs and milk. Sometimes pregnant women also avoid eating green leafy vegetables, eggs, milk and milk products, sugarcane, and green pepper in fear of obstetric complications associated with these foods. Furthermore, during fasting periods Christian families do not consume certain nutritious foods such as animal-based foods, which negatively affects the nutritional security of women and children under the age of five. F2F will work at the community and household level to teach training participants how to prepare meatless diets that provide good nutritious value for those who chose to refrain from eating meat while fasting. On the other hand, despite their availability, some nutritious foods such as local cabbage, sweet potato and pumpkins face low consumption due to traditional

[22] FAO, National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods (2019)

perceptions that categorize them as 'poor people's diet'. Addressing these challenges require concerted efforts to raise awareness and bring about social behavioral change.

7.2. Gender

Better nutrition can only be achieved if core gender issues related to decision making, access to resources, and benefits are addressed. Some of the major challenges identified in the consultation workshop include men's dominance in decision-making on food produTherction[23] and income use, limited access to training and extension services, and disparities in accessing resources like land and finance. In some places, cultural norms that allow men to be served their food first and to have priority access to the more nutritious foods (despite women being the ones who are overburdened with productive and reproductive work) make it difficult to ensure nutritional security at household and national levels.

Addressing these challenges should focus on empowering women to produce and access nutritious foods through initiatives like vegetable and fruit gardening, poultry production, and women-owned and women-led credit and saving associations. Projects also need to design and implement gender transformative interventions involving men to bring about attitudinal change and overcome harmful norms. It is also important to support the development and promotion of labor-saving technologies that can reduce the burden on women. CRS Ethiopia is implementing a Gender Strategy (2022-2027) to address gender issues within its programs. The CRS gender advisor will support F2F in integrating gender perspectives into the design, implementation, and impact evaluation of the program.

7.3. Climate Change

Food must be produced, processed, transported, consumed, and occasionally wasted, and each of these steps produces greenhouse gases which slightly contribute to climate change. The food system is responsible for around one-third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.[24] At the same time climate change threatens the availability of nutritious foods by reducing crop and livestock production. Ethiopia is actively implementing measures to build climate-resilient agriculture which can support sustainable and quality food production. NSA promotes sustainable and climate resilient practices including the production of nutrient-dense crop and animal types, integrated soil fertility management to enhance organic matter and the nutrient pool, and diverse and integrated farming systems. CRS will identify and promote climate smart NSA practices at the production level. Additionally, efforts will be directed towards resource efficiency for food processing, reduction and recycling of food waste, and the use of energy-efficient stoves and renewable energy sources such as solar drying.

CRS volunteer technical support will comply with USAID's Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) and Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) to ensure that interventions are not adversely affecting the natural environment and climate.

[23] While location and environment play a role in determining which crops to produce, in many cases the ultimate choice on this among the options available is made at the household level by men.
[24] FAO, Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems (2021)

7.3.a. Country specific climate risk assessment and management planning

Climate risks	Strategy to respond to the climate risk
Increased frequency and intensity of disasters such as droughts and floods	- Implement assignments that strengthen climate-smart agriculture & production diversification
The rise in temperature will increase food loss	- Promote improved post-harvest practices - Support beneficiaries in agro-processing and improved food preservation
Rising health and sanitation risks due to increasing temperature & water scarcity	- Promote new and improved techniques to ensure food hygiene and sanitation

8. Other Resources to Accomplish Desired Objectives

CRS has worked in Ethiopia for almost 60 years and is an established partner of USAID, different government sectors, and local and multilateral organizations. CRS implements relief and development projects through a network of local partners whose capacities it has built. These partners will collaborate with F2F to identify hosts and disseminate volunteer recommendations. CRS is also implementing other projects within the agriculture sector, including the USAID-funded RFSA and Transforming Agriculture Activity and, hence, F2F will leverage their experience and form collaborations to create synergies and efficiencies.

The highly organized structure and function of CRS will allow F2F to mobilize required support including administrative and financial staff support, allocated office facilities and vehicles. CRS will continue to seek to leverage F2F to secure associate awards.

9. Project Logical Framework

Objective statement	Key performance Indicator Targets	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impacts SO1**:** Enhanced economic growth in the agricultural sector by promoting sustainable improvements in food security, nutrition, agricultural processing, production, and marketing. SO2: US Public Understanding of international agricultural issues and USG development programs Improved.	- $2,662,500 total gross sales at life of project (LOP) - $562,500 total net income at LOP. - 30 percent increase in annual gross sales of total assisted hosts (LOP) - 25 percent increase in annual net income of total assisted hosts (LOP) - 2,296 of area under improved management influence (Ha) - 3,640 direct beneficiaries benefited. - Hosts organizational development index (ODI) increased by 0.5 on average (4 is maximum score) - $1,437,570 value of rural/agricultural lending expended by hosts. - 2,750 rural/agricultural loans issued by hosts. - Two New or improved product developed.	Host records, host baseline and impact documentation and indicator performance tracking table (IPTT)	Weather and global market trends remain conducive to project implementation and application of volunteer recommendations

Objective statement	Key performance Indicator Targets	Sources of data	Assumptions
Outcomes SO1: New and improved nutritious food products and recipes recommended by volunteers applied. SO2: Resources mobilized by hosts and leveraged by volunteers and used for implementation of assignments and recommendations.	- $91,760 (value of resources) mobilized by hosts. - 60 volunteer recommendations applied by hosts. - Six volunteer continued connection with hosts after assignment completion. - $1,400 (value of resources) leveraged by volunteers and implementer in the U.S - $6,107 worth of volunteer technical assistance contributed from the U.S.	Host baseline and capacity development plan, monitoring reports volunteer survey, implementer record and IPTT table	Availability of complementary services to support and sustain implementation of volunteer recommendations
Outputs SO1: Organizational and human capacities of hosts strengthened SO2: Volunteer recommendations made to improve hosts' nutritional activities or products.	- 996 persons trained. - 75 volunteer recommendations made. - Six host organizations assisted. - Six publications, or radio/TV broadcasts (worldwide) - 50 social media posted by implementers, expert volunteers, hosts and staff (worldwide) - 19 group presentations made by implementer and volunteers (worldwide)	Participant sign-in sheet, volunteer report, monitoring report and IPTT table	Media and government regulations are supportive of these program activities
Inputs SO1 & SO2: -SOWs developed and volunteers recruited -Volunteer assignments implemented -Hosts contributed resources towards implementation of assignments	- $12,920 (value of) host contribution - 25 volunteer assignments - 13 new volunteers - 13 women volunteers - Three U.S. paired remote volunteers (PRVs) - 448 days of volunteer service - 25 scopes of work (SOWs)	Host contribution records, volunteer reports, IPTT table	Security situation in program area is conducive to volunteers completing volunteer assignments
Custom indicators SO1: - Hosts' gender capacity enhanced as measured by CRS F2F gender assessment tool and compared to baseline value. -Enterprise hosts performed better as measured by MSME tool.	- Three host organizations' gender ODI scores increased as measured by CRS gender ODI assessment tool at LOP. - Two enterprises' organizational capacity increased as measured by the CRS MSME assessment tool at LOP. - 25 percent increase in investment made by private sector enterprises (PSEs) at LOP	Hosts baseline, gender and MSME tools at baseline and impact assessment	Implementation of volunteer recommendations specially from gender and enterprise volunteer assignments